

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OGEN, MX

SUBJ: VISIT OF DAVID G. HOWELL, GEOLOGIST, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
IN MID-JUNE 1975 TO CEDROS ISLANDS MEXICO

1. TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR A U.S. VESSEL TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN MEXICAN WATERS REQUIRES A DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM THE EMBASSY TO THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS GIVING FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK TO BE DONE. WE HAVE AGREED WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS THAT WE WILL REQUEST THESE CLEARANCES AT LEAST 90 DAYS BEFORE THE WORK IS TO BE DONE AND IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT IT TAKES AT LEAST THIS LONG TO OBTAIN THE CLEARANCE.

2. NATURE EXPEDITIONS INTERNATIONAL HAS NOT CONTACTED THE EMBASSY REGARDING A VESSEL CLEARANCE. SINCE THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR A VESSEL TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS THROUGH THE EMBASSY TO THE SECRETARIAT WE SEE NO WAY THAT AT THIS LATE DATE THEY CAN OBTAIN SUCH A CLEARANCE.

3. WHEN CLEARANCE IS OBTAINED FOR A VESSEL TO CONDUCT RESEARCH THE INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS ABOARD DO NOT REQUIRE CLEARANCES. SUGGEST MR. HOWELL CONTACT NATURE EXPEDITIONS INTERNATIONAL TO FIND IF THEY HAVE OBTAINED A VESSEL CLEARANCE IN SOME MANNER UNKNOWN TO US AND ALSO

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TO ADVISE THEM THAT IF THEY INTEND TO ATTEMPT OBTAIN

CLEARANCE THROUGH EMBASSY THAT IT IS TOO LATE IF THE EXPEDITION IS TO BE CONDUCTED IN MID-JUNE.

4. WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH NATURE EXPEDITIONS INTERNATIONAL. HOWEVER, OUTFITS BEARING SIMILAR TYPE NAMES ARE FORMED REGULARLY BY CALIFORNIA CHARTER BOAT OWNERS FOR PURELY COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THESE SO-CALLED NATURE EXPEDITIONS AT APPROXIMATELY 500 DOLLARS PER PERSON, AND A FEW U.S. SCIENTISTS ARE INVITED TO GO ALONG FOR FREE IN ORDER TO GIVE AN AIR OF LEGITIMACY TO THE EXPEDITION AND TO AID IN OBTAINING A SCIENTIFIC CLEARANCE. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE THAT THIS TYPE OF SO-CALLED SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION IS MAINLY COMMERCIAL AND HAS IN THE PAST REGULARLY REFUSED CLEARANCES. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS PROPOSED EXPEDITION MAY BE ONE OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED ABOVE.
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